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## ABSTRACT

Communications systems increasingly use connectionless networks such as IP networker. However in practical connectionless networks traffic bottlenecks arise which slow the flow of traffic. The present invention provides a method of operating a connectionless network to provide a priority routing service for a predetermined network user having a plurality of customers communicating with said user via said network, the network comprising a plurality of network elements and links therebetween, the method comprising: maintaining an express route comprising one or more said links between two end elements; at least one said end element arranged to identify data packets originating from said user and destined for a said customer or originating from a said customer and destined for said user and diverting said packets along said express route.